Committee constituted under Section 5 of the Insecticides Act, 1968 have constituted an Expert Group including experts from Indian Council of Agricultural Research and All India Institute of Medical Sciences, to study the effects of use of endosulfan in this perspective and make recommendations regarding its continued use restricted use or otherwise.

Impact of new fertilizer policy

1796. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of CHEMICAL AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Fertilizer Industry has refuted Government's contention that it stands so gain Rs. 312 crore from the 7th and 8th pricing policy, which was recently approved by the Cabinet;

(b) whether according to the industry sources, the fertilizer industry is all set to make a loss of Rs. 2,875 crore, because of these pricing policies; and

(c) if so, what would be the impact of the new policy and the industry as a whole?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) to (c) There is no loss to the fertilizer industry in the wake of approval of updated policy parameters for 7th and 8th pricing periods. Policy parameters for the 7th and 8th pricing periods under the existing Retention Price Scheme have been approved by the competent authority on 16.5.2002 and have also been communicated to all urea companies on 4.6.2002. The final unit-wise determination of retention prices based on approved parameters would entail updating the norms of the various units in respect of salaries & wages, utilities, repairs & maintenance, consumption norms, plant capacities, capital additions, foreign exchange fluctuation etc., that were not updated since 1.7.1997; and this will result in regularization of payments already made beyond 30.6.1997 and may lead to recoveries in some cases and payments in some other cases.

Fertilizer Industry Development Fund

1797. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Group of Ministers headed by Dy. Chairman, Planning Commission, has submitted any report to Government on the proposed decontrol in pricing, movement and distribution of Urea by April 1, 2006;

(b) whether Government purpose to set up any Fertilizer Industry Development Fund to help the corporate who might be adversely affected by retention pricing scheme;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to help the Urea industry in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) A proposal to create Fertilizer Industry Development Fund for the upgradation and modernization of the urea units as a part of the proposed new pricing policy for urea units is under consideration of the Government.

Over-realisation of prices under DPCO

1798. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the MNCs and domestic drug makers owe Government a staggering Rs. 330 crore on account of estimated over-realisation of prices under the Drug Prices Equalisation Account;

(b) whether the drug companies had manipulated huge margins from 1979 to 1987, by way of using low-priced-import inputs, which violates Government policy of obligatory use of indigenous raw materials; and

(c) whether the drug companies have managed to secure a stay from courts against Government demand; if so, whether Government would proceed to move the Apex Court for vacation of the stay enmasse?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Government has, till date, computed liabilities amounting to Rs. 326.00 crore on account of overcharging and unintended benefits enjoyed by the drug companies under the provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1979.

(b) In all cases where the procurement price of any bulk drug by its formulator, procured from any source, was lower than the price of that bulk drug allowed by the Government in his formulation prices, Government